

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

12:30 pm to 1:45 pm.

House Room 25

Commission: Rep. Becky Edwards, Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Senator Luz Escamilla, Ann Marie Wallace, Jennifer Robinson, Judy Barnett, Melissa Freigang and Karen Leonardi

Excused: Senator Deidre Henderson, Kathy Bounous, and Anne Burkholder

Staff Support: Shelle Allinson

Attendees: Erin Jemison, Camille Hawkins, Dianne Meppen, Maren Christensen, Mallory Bateman, Jessica Sanders, Jessie Mandle

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	Welcome (Rep. Chavez-Houck)	
	Minutes from the last meeting were approved.	Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting.
Status of Women in Utah Report	<p>Dianne Meppen, Director of Survey Research and Maren Christensen with Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute presented on the results of eleven focus groups done in the fall. Groups ranged from Logan to Kanab and the subjects were women both employed and those not working. Biggest concern of the groups was the availability of child care in the workplace. Other concerns of the focus groups were benefits provided such as healthcare and sick/vacation time, flexibility of hours, and education.</p> <p>Ann Marie Wallace from the Women's Business Center presented on the State of Women's entrepreneurship in Utah. Information is based on the American Express open report. In Utah, 83.8K businesses are owned by women, employ 75.4K, and generate \$14 billion in revenue. Utah ranks #9 in the Nation for businesses owned by women. The Women's Business Center helps with technical knowledge, building networks, finding resources and support,</p>	<p>Focus groups would like WIEC to work on making child care available in the workplace. Not necessarily provided by the employer but maybe a separate entity.</p> <p>The Women's Business Center is in need of more online training and statewide reach. They partner with the Chamber of Commerce to host free events to get the word out.</p>

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<p>Utah Department of Health Family Planning Grant Building Block Request</p> <p>Sub-Committee Updates and Bills for Review</p>	<p>providing good examples and building confidence.</p> <p>Jesse Mandle from Voices for Utah Children and Dr Jessica Sanders, Director of Family Planning Research at the University of Utah presented on contraception being a pocket book issue for families. The Governor's budget wants those in federal poverty to be 100% covered. This should be about 8000 individuals.</p> <p>Senator Luz Escamilla presented on legislation and requests for the Commission's support. She presented on Representative Romero's bill on Sexual Assault Kit Processing Amendments, HB200. Sen. Escamilla also has two bills in appropriation. One is an infertility request. Also has a bill that asks the HRM to collect data from state agencies that will change the gender wage gap within five years. Her third bill is working with the Dept of Health on maternal and child health. It will address high postpartum depression and provide a study of evidence based home visits. Her goal is to provide every new baby with a baby box to leave the hospital with.</p>	<p>A cohort study is being conducted on removing cost barriers for women. Voices for Utah Children supports the study.</p> <p>Rep. Edwards made a motion to have Shelle set up an online poll for the Commission to vote on supporting the bills. Motion passed. Shelle will work on that.</p> <p>Motion made to pass the MOU with UVU to share data and stats from all institutions of higher learning with the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>